

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 05320 271744Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CU-02 BIB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07

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R 271540Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9039

INFO EC COLLECTICE 88

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5320

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NATO EEC CSCE NL

SUBJECT: EC-9 WORK ON CSCE: PREPARATIONS FOR BELGRADE '77

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 5008 (B) STATE 232349 (C) USNATO 5155

1. AS FOLLOW UP TO DISCUSSIONS HELD RECENTLY IN BRUSSELS (REF C) AND HERE IN THE HAGUE (REF A), EMBOFF SOUGHT FURTHER ELABORATION ON EC-9 PREPARATIONS FOR BELGRADE WITH BIEGMAN OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NATO POLITICAL AFFAIRS SECTION.

2. COMMENTING ON PAPER PRESENTED TO NON-EC -9 DELEGATIONS BY AMBASSADOR HARTOGH, BIEGMAN SAID THAT POLITICAL DIRECTORS HAD "TAKEN NOTE OF THE PAPER AND CLEARED IT FOR CIRCULATION IN NATO." IT WAS, HOWEVER, A PRELIMINARY STUDY AND THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS DID NOT APPROVE IT FORMALLY DURING SEPT 9-10 MEETINGS. DUTCH HAD NOT EXPECTED MUCH DISCUSSION AT THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 THE HA 05320 271744Z

MEETING ON CSCE AND HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY INTEREST IT AROUSED.

EXPECTING ONLY 5-10 MINUTES DISCUSSION, THEY FOUND THAT SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, ESPECIALLY FRG, WANTED TO DEVOTE CONSIDERABLY MORE TIME TO CSCE.

3. MOSCOW AMBASSADORS OF THE NINE ARE TO CONSULT (BIEGMAN THOUGHT ON SEPT 28 OR 29) BEFORE MAKING PARALLEL DEMARCHES ON POOR SOVIET PERFORMANCE IN PROVIDING STATISTICAL INFORMATION. BIEGMAN SAID THAT DETAILS ARE TO BE WORKED OUT BY AMBASSADORS, BUT HE THOUGHT FIRST DEMARCHE WOULD BE MADE BY DUTCH TO BE FOLLOWED AT ONE OR TWO DAY INTERVALS FOR REST OF THE NINE.

4. IN DISCUSSING BELGRADE '77, BIEGMAN SAID THAT LEVEL OF ATTENDANCE WAS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. ONLY ONE MEMBER OF THE NINE WAS PUSHING FOR REPRESENTATION AT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL. BIEGMAN WAS RELUCTANT TO SPECIFY TO WHICH COUNTRY HE REFERRED, AND WE DID NOT PUSH. ON QUESTION OF STAFFING HE SAID THAT, IF SPECIAL CSCE REPRESENTATIVES WERE TO BE APPOINTED, DUTCH WOULD PROBABLY NAME JO VAN DER VALK, THEIR AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE WHO WAS GON REPRESENTATIVE AT THE GENEVA CSCE TALKS IN 1974-75. QUESTION OF DIVIDING WORK INTO COMMITTEES WAS PERPLEXING. WHILE IT WOULD PROBABLY BE NECESSARY TO PROCEED ALONG THOSE LINES, EC -9 RECOGNIZED THAT IT WOULD MAKE FOR MORE DIFFICULT PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS. NINE HOPE THAT BELGRADE REVIEW WILL BE EASY FOR PUBLIC TO UNDER STAND AND RECOMMENDED A MORE OPEN PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICY IN THE PAPER CIRULATED AT NATO. THEY ARE CONSIDERING ATTACHING A EC-9 PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER TO BELGRADE STAFF.

5. IN ADDITION TO PAPERS LISTED IN PARA 9 OF REF A, BIEGMAN SAID THAT BRITISH WOULD BE PREPARING A PAPER ON THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF BELGRADE. WHEN WE ASKED FOR RATIONALE AND SCOPE OF SELECTED APERS, HE LAUGHED AND SAID THAT WASHINGTON GIVES NINE MORE CREDIT FOR THINKING THINGS THROUGH THAN IT SHOULD. HE THEN SAID THAT ASSISGNMENT OF APPERS WAS DONE WITH LITTLE PRIOR THOUGHT. DURING DISCUSSION SEPT 9-10 VARIOUS TOPICS CAME UP AND WERE QUICKLY ASSIGNED TO COUNTRY HAVING PARTICULAR INTEREST (ITALY FOR MEDITERRANEAN, UK FOR CBM'S) OR TO COUNTRY HAVING PARTICULAR EXPERTISE (FRG ON RADIONS). WHEN DAVIGNON RAISED SEVERAL SUBJECTS, BELGIANS WERE GIVEN TASK OF PREPARING CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 THE HA 05320 271744Z

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